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his office at a royal wedding is to serve at the table of the bride; a white covering is to be about the harp or *crwth*, which he brings with him.

The Club-head Vocalist is one who sings without being able to play on an instrument. He is to stand in the middle of the hall, and beat time with his club, and sing a poem or ode, with the beats.

Royal Weddings. A notice of a year and a day is given to the bards to prepare themselves to attend royal weddings; and the chief minstrel is appointed the *butt* of the rest, and he gives them an entertaining subject to exercise their poetical talents upon. After dinner the chief minstrel sits in a chair; and those who put questions to him stand; they are permitted to say against him, in poetry, anything they choose; and, on the morrow, he answers them on the subject for the amusement of the company.

The 12th century may be regarded as the Augustan era of music in Wales; for Giraldus Cambrensis, who flourished at that time, writes, that "travellers who arrived at early hours, are entertained with the conversation of young women, and music on the harp, until the evening; for every family has its maidens and harps assigned for the purpose." And, in allusion to the particular style of music then prevalent, he says, "In their musical concerts they do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of many countries, *but in different parts*; so that in a company of singers, which one frequently meets with, in Wales, you will hear as many different parts and voices as there are performers; who all at length unite, with organic melody [in harmony], in one consonance [concord], and the soft sweetness of B flat." (*qu. G minor.*) To this he adds, that he had never witnessed a similar custom, except in the North of England, beyond the Humber; a circumstance which, when we reflect that a tribe of the Kymry anciently peopled that part of the kingdom, tends greatly to prove the antiquity of the practice.

The century which elapsed from the era just considered, until the extinction of Welsh independence, was peculiarly marked by desolation and bloodshed. Yet the harp of the Kymrie was not silent during this ominous interval; for often among the mountains and glens of Wales, were her wild notes heard, associated with the voice of the bard, to give life and hope to the soul of the warrior. But her day of joy and triumph was drawing fast to its close: with the death of the last Llywelyn (1282), died, for a season, the spirit of minstrelsy and song among the mountains of Wales. Like the Israelites of old, when sitting down to weep near the waters of Babylon, the Welsh hung up their useless harps to lament over the fall of their country, and to wait the dawn of a more propitious era!

(To be continued.)

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ANDOVER.—The Choral Society commenced their third season at the beginning of October, for the rehearsal and performance of music generally, and elementary instruction. During the last year the society gave, in the Town Hall, four concerts of vocal and instrumental music. Performers, the Misses E. Criswick, Sincock, and Herbert, Messrs. Stephens, Gibbs, and Bennett; the latter gentleman being conductor.

BEVERLY.—Mr. Frazer gave his musical entertainment at this town, on the 15th of October, which was well attended. Pianist, Mr. C. H. Hunt.

BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. William Howell has been appointed organist to the Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford-street, as successor to Mr. J. Halmshaw.

BRISTOL.—The members of the choir of St. George's Church gave a concert of vocal music on the 23rd ult., at the School-room, Summerhill-house, in aid of the funds for the repairs of the Parish Church, which were rendered necessary owing to the damage done by the gales in March last. The performers consisted chiefly of amateurs in the neighbourhood, and was conducted by Mr. Allen, of Bristol; Mr. Sayer presiding at the pianoforte. The music was very creditably sung.

BRIXTON.—On Tuesday evening, October 22nd, a class for the practice of vocal music commenced at the school-room, St. James's Road, Angell Town. Mr. G. F. Stuber has very kindly allowed the room, which is well lighted and arranged, to be used for the above purpose gratuitously. Mr. W. H. Starey, organist of St. John's, is hon. secretary.

CAMBERWELL.—On Tuesday evening, September 24th, a concert, consisting of sacred and secular music, was given at Camberwell Hall, at which a highly respectable audience was present. The first part consisted of an excellent selection of sacred music, and which was very efficiently rendered. This part was brought to a conclusion by a duet from *Guillaume Tell*, (pianoforte, Miss E. Stirling; violin, Mr. Kemp,) and which indeed was a brilliant performance. The second part of the programme consisted of a good selection of secular music, and contained several glees, all of which were very well done. Miss E. Stirling's song, "A wet Sheet," sung by Mr. Bridge, gained an encore. "All among the Barley," accompanied (*ad. lib.*) by the composer, Miss Stirling, was rapturously redemanded. The other performers were Miss Roberts, Miss Gibbard, Miss Newson, Mr. Lubbock, and Mr. Waterson. Mr. Bridge conducted. The competition for the situation of organist at Camden Church, has resulted in the election of Mr. Henry Gadsby, organist of St. Ann's, Blackfriars.

CHELtenham.—A new organ, erected in St. Paul's Church, was opened on Saturday, the 22nd of September, by Mr. Taylor, organist of Crypt Church, Gloucester. The chants, anthems, and hymns, were well sung by a very efficient choir, and the power and beauty of the organ were brought out with great effect by Mr. Taylor.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—School of Art, Science, and Literature.—This school, which was commenced last year, has been patronized largely, especially by persons resident in the vicinity of Sydenham. The regulations for the ensuing year, ending July 31st, 1862, have just been issued. The classes of painting, languages, and science generally, have the names of well known professors appended to them, and in the musical department the names of Messrs. Benedict, Lindsay Sloper, Prout, H. Leslie, and J. G. Calcott, Madame Garcia, Mrs. Street, and Miss Whyte, give promise of superior instruction. The first course of lectures by Dr. Draper and Dr. Lancaster, commenced on the 17th ultimo, specially addressed to those who may be preparing to exhibit in competition at the international exhibition of 1862.

FOREST GATE, Stratford.—Haydn's *Creation* was performed.

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formed here on Wednesday, September 25th, at the National Schools, when Miss Lizzie Wilson gave the elaborate aria, "On mighty pens," and the other music allotted to her, in a style which promises well for her future. The other vocalists were the Misses Dixon, Shelford, and Crisp, Messrs. Hubbard, Stevens, and Stock; conductor, Mr. Howard.

GRIMSBY.—A concert was given by Mr. R. Fraser, in the Corn Exchange, on the 27th of September, when some agreeable music was performed, and a large audience was collected together. The solo singers were Mrs. Murray, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Frazer; pianoforte, Mr. C. H. Hunt; and harp, Mr. Murray.

GRINTON.—A new organ, built by Mr. Postill, of York, was opened at Grinton, near Richmond, Yorkshire, on Sunday, the 6th ult. The instrument was greatly admired, and its sterling qualities were efficiently brought out by Mr. Clarkson, formerly a pupil in the Wilberforce School for the Blind.

GUILDFORD.—Two concerts, in aid of the Dispensary in this town, by amateurs of the neighbourhood, were given in the Public Hall, on Wednesday morning and Thursday evening, the 16th and 17th ult., which possessed additional interest from the performance of an original cantata, composed by Mr. J. M. Capes, who conducted the performances. The cantata is entitled "Flavian," the words being illustrative of the introduction of Christianity into Britain. This formed the first part of each concert, and was creditably sung. The soprano and alto solos were sung by Miss Wynne and Mrs. Scarisbrick, who were engaged for the occasion to assist the amateurs. The choruses were given with great precision. The second part, on both occasions, comprised a selection of solos, duets, and glees.

HARWORTH, York.—A new organ, built by Herr Schulze, of Paulinzelle, near Leipsic, was opened on Wednesday, 25th of September, in the small parish church at Harworth; with two special services. Mr. Rogers, of Doncaster, presided, assisted by twenty choristers.

HONLEY (near Huddersfield).—The situation of organist of St. Mary's Church, Honley, lately vacant, has been conferred upon Mr. E. J. Pearson, late organist at Holmfirth Church; he is the son of the professor of music at Golcar, in the immediate vicinity.

HOWDEN.—Concert by the Blind.—On the 14th of Oct. Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, gave one of her interesting concerts in the Town Hall, assisted by Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, from York.

HULL.—The Jubilee of the National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church was celebrated in this town on Friday, the 4th of October; when upwards of 3000 children, composed of the different national schools in the town, assembled in Trinity Church, where a special service was performed, in which they took part; a sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Robinson, principal of the York Training College. A procession was afterwards formed, passing through the principal streets, and the schools then separated, each child receiving two buns, and a prayer book. In the evening a meeting took place in the public rooms, to take into consideration the minutes of the Council on Education, the chair being taken by W. Eyre, Esq.; the Rev. Canon Robinson, and other reverend gentlemen addressed the meeting. We must not omit to record the praise which is due to Mr. Skelton, the organist of the church, under whose training the various schools performed their parts.—On the 9th of October, the above sacred building was the scene of another special service, as a thanksgiving for the late brilliant harvest weather, and was crowded in every part; the pulpit and other prominent parts of the interior being tastefully decorated with emblematical designs, formed chiefly of wheat ears and sheaves. The music was extremely well chosen from the *Creation*, and other well known works, and Mr. Skelton again distinguished

himself by his efficient assistance, both as performer and tutor.

JERSEY.—Dr. Marks and his little men have been gratifying the inhabitants of St. Heliers, with their performances, which were patronized by the governor and officers.

LEEDS.—A concert was given in aid of the Mechanics' Institution at Crossgates, near this town, on the 21st of October. Mr. Shaw presided at the pianoforte. The first part of the programme was selected chiefly from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*; and the second part comprised music of a secular character.

LICHFIELD.—The Re-opening of the Cathedral.—This beautiful Cathedral has been under repair for the last two years, and the extensive alterations and improvements having been completed the building was re-opened on Tuesday, the 22nd of last month. A large meeting of the Clergy took place in the morning at the Guildhall, when between four and five hundred assembled in their robes, for the purpose of presenting an address to the Bishop of the Diocese. Various speeches having been made by the dignitaries present, a general move took place towards the Cathedral, where preparations were made for the reception of the Bishop, at the Western door. The edifice had been previously filled from end to end by the public, some four thousand persons being present; the following was the musical programme:—Responses, Tallis; Venite, Tallis; Psalms, Turlé; Te Deum and Jubilate, Boyce in A; Anthem, "Cry aloud," Croft; Introit, "Princes have persecuted," Cooke; Kyrie and Nicene Creed, Arnold in A; Doxology before Gospel, Tallis; Hymn before Offertory, Monk; "Sursum Corda, Tallis; Ter Sanctus and Gloria, Tallis. Of the musical performance generally it is impossible to speak in terms of too warm commendation, although once or twice there was a slight want of harmony between the various Choirs collected together, some of whom would persist in keeping their own time. Mr. Bedsmore presided at the organ, and performed the service with great skill. A collection was made in the Church, which amounted to £538 10s. 8d. The Holy Communion was administered subsequently, at which about eight hundred persons were present. After the morning service, a luncheon took place in four large tents on the grounds of the Lichfield Museum. Three of these were devoted to the Choirs, and the other to the rest of the visitors. The afternoon service in the Cathedral commenced at four o'clock, when every seat was occupied, and the aisles were choked up with the multitude. The musical programme was as follows:—Psalms, Turner; Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, Elvey in A; Anthem, "It came even to pass," Sir F. Ouseley. Before Sermon, Old Hundredth Psalm. In singing the Magnificat, the time was observed by the Choirs with perfect accuracy, and the thorough union of the voices had an excellent effect. The most brilliant piece of the day was the Anthem specially composed for the occasion by Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley. This was a close test of the capabilities of the Choir, and the effect of their training; the unanimity and clearness of expression at once displayed their proficiency; and the whole of the music was enunciated with such steadiness and solemnity, as to produce a most imposing effect. After the Anthem, the Bishop of Oxford preached an effective discourse, which was listened to with considerable interest by the large concourse of persons present.

LINCOLN.—A concert of vocal and instrumental music was given at the Assembly Rooms, on the 18th of October, by the City Madrigal Society, for the benefit of a sick member. The society was assisted by Mr. Ward's quadrille band. The performance was conducted by Mr. Charles Roberts, and accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. F. M. Ward. The programme contained a good selection of music, which was well sung; the principal performers being Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Christian.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Joseph Skeaf's concert took place on Wednesday, October 9th, in the Concert Hall, Lord

Nelson Street, and attracted a numerous and fashionable assembly. The vocalists were Mrs. Skeaf, Miss Bennett, Mr. A. Rowley, Mr. F. W. Terry, Mr. E. Foulkes, and Mr. T. J. Hughes; solo violin, Master Milne; conductor, Mr. Joseph Skeaf.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR TEACHING THE BLIND, &c.—An examination, and musical performance of the blind pupils of this society took place, in the Upper Avenue, Regent's Park, on Monday, the 7th of October, when a variety of pieces by Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, &c., were performed; concluding with the national anthem. The whole conducted by Mr. Edward Barnes, professor of music at the society's schools. The programmes were printed by the boys at the Maida Hill Industrial Schools.

RYDE, Isle of Wight.—Mr. C. W. Salter has been appointed to succeed Dr. A. S. Holloway, as organist of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ryde. Mr. Holloway being engaged as organist at Wardour Castle, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Arundel.

SHILDON.—The Shildon Choral Society gave their second concert on the 27th of September, consisting of selections from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*, followed by solos, duets, part-songs, glees, &c.; conductor, Mr. R. O. Bowran; principal performers, Misses Bowran and Hudson, and Messrs. Fryer, Thompson, Goundry, and C. Johnson.

SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, Chancery Lane.—A concert was given at the Mechanics' Institution, on the 16th ult, by the choir. The solos were sung by Miss Harvey, Mr. Cruttwell, Mr. Page, and Mr. Shaw, under the direction of Mr. Beuthin. The first part of the concert was formed entirely of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, and the second part contained various secular pieces, which were all sung with correctness.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—A concert was given by the members of the first division of Mr. Henken's Choral Association, on the 28th ult. The choir was assisted by Miss Eleonora Wilkinson, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Winn; organist, Mr. Hopkins, and conductor, Mr. J. Henken. The music was sung with taste and precision, and several of the pieces were much applauded.

YORK.—The first chamber concert of the Minster Musical Society for this season, took place, in the De Grey Rooms, on the 22nd of October, conducted by Dr. Monk. The programme was well selected, and comprised several classical works of considerable merit, which were admirably performed. Mr. Walter Macfarren presided at the pianoforte.

WANTS A SITUATION in a good Musical Establishment, a Musician of ability and knowledge, who understands several instruments, and would render general services in the sale of music, insiruments, &c. Address, A.B., Office of the *Musical Times*, 69, Dean-street, Soho, London.

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ORGAN TAUGHT.—Mr. H. F. HAMMOND, Organist of Christ Church, Camberwell, continues to give Lessons at Hammond and Sons', Organ Builders, Old Kent-road. A large Organ, with 2 rows of keys and pedals, for Pupils. Organs for Hire.

ORGAN. — FOR SALE, a very sweet-toned Chamber-Organ by Father Schmidt; 4 stops, in handsome carved rosewood case with 33 gilt pipes in front. Must be sold immediately for half its value. Address, T.C., 15, Hollingworth-street, Holloway.

FOR SALE, a small ORGAN in neat painted case, front pipes, foot blower, &c., containing 3 stops—open and stopped diapasons and flute. No reasonable offer refused. Address, "Organist," Buckingham.

ORGANS FOR SALE.—An Organ nearly new, by the eminent Builders, Gray and Davison; of 2 manuals, CC to G, and pedals, CCC to E, with bourdon (16 feet) pipes; suitable for church or chapel. Also a smaller instrument, by the same builders, of 1 manual, CC to F, containing 5 stops and 1½ octaves of pedals, with bourdon pipes throughout, suitable for a small church. Apply to the Builders, or to Mr. Boole, Radburne, near Derby.

FOR SALE, a CHURCH ORGAN.—Compass, CC to F; 5 stops—open diapason, dulciana, stopped diapason, principal, and piccolo, all throughout. Gothic case, grained oak, gilt front. Price £70. Apply to W. G. Vowles, Organ Builder, 69, Castle-street, Bristol. Metal pipes, &c., supplied.

ORGAN FOR SALE.—To Students of the Organ.—A C Organ, 4 stops throughout, exclusive of independent pedal stop, 2½ octaves, also pedal coupler to keys. Price 75 guineas. Apply to Mr. Martin Bradley, Organist, Ramsgate.

FOR SALE by Tender, POPLAR CHAPEL ORGAN. Tenders for the purchase of the Organ now in Poplar Chapel will be received on or before Wednesday, Nov. 6th. For particulars, and to inspect, apply to Mr. Coleman, 59, High-street, Poplar.

ORGAN FOR SALE.—A Gentleman wishes to dispose of a very superior little Organ, in mahogany case, with six stops, pedals, swell, &c. Price 30 guineas. Apply to Mrs. Combes, 12, Alfred-street, Bedford-square, W. C.

ORGAN FOR SALE, containing 2 manuals (CC to F in alto), 10 stops, 2½ octaves of pedals, with bourdon throughout. Also, a BARREL-ORGAN, containing 5 stops; price £25 complete. R. and H. South, Organ Builders, Gray's Inn-road.

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THE HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS (the Queen's Concert Rooms) are undergoing a thorough Restoration and Re-decoration, and will shortly be opened again for Concerts, Balls, Public Meetings, &c., as heretofore. The Hall will in future be available for Sabbath Services. N.B.—The Basement Story and Vaults may be engaged by a Wine or other Merchant for Warehousing purposes.

Enquiries to be addressed to Messrs. Robert Cocks and Co., New Burlington-street, Regent-street, W.; or to Messrs. Foster and Co., 54, Pall Mall, W.